



**USAID | HONDURAS**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Success Story: Change Comes to Semane

Sabina Vasquez remembers that as a child, the only food in her home was a piece of tortilla, a pinch of salt, and a few beans to mitigate her hunger. Sabina is now a middle-aged woman, mother of three children, and housewife. She is also treasurer of a local community bank and a recognized leader. She lives in Semane, Intibuca, one of the poorest and least developed departments in Honduras, where USAID has a Title II Food Security Program.



### The Generation of Change

Prior to the implementation of the Title II, the community was made up of subsistence corn and bean farmer. The programs transformed production by introducing a diversity of high market value products such as citrus fruits and vegetables. Farmers also improved yields through the implementation of new techniques they learned from the program.

The program did not only change Semane's landscape, it also changed the community's way of thinking. "Before, we thought the land was useless; instead of taking care of it, we destroyed it by burning our fields. Now we know about organic agriculture", said Nemesio Manueles, a local farmer. Community members are now also involved in the protection of water resources and reforestation.

### Overcoming Malnutrition

In Semane, there was a 36% reduction of children under two-years-old suffering from undernourishment. Marta Mejia, a health volunteer, teaches women how basic nutritional information can empower women. "With the program, women have learned to prepare food in many different ways. Their children have improved their weight, something that until recently was impossible to achieve", she states.



### Self-Management Capabilities

According to the school's principal, the Title II Program is the founder of Semane's development. She feels that unlike other programs, Title II has organized, educated, and provided the population with skills, dignity, and hope. "The program has taught us to value work", said community leaders, Isidro Lorenzo. According to Lorenzo their work will continue over the long run. He thinks that the community is preparing itself to continue with the program, once USAID assistance ends.